

CENTRAL LOUISIANA REGIONAL PORT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 20, 2024

The Central Louisiana Regional Port Board of Commissioners convened at 8:05 AM, November 20, 2024, at the Port Central Office, 600 River Port Road, Alexandria, Louisiana.

Present were: Paul Coreil, Mike Grant, Haywood Joiner, Gil McKee, John Scott, Basil Smith
Terry Spruill

Absent: Brannin Leglue, Larry Turner

Also Present: Ben, Russo, CLRP Executive Director; Stephanie Ryland, CLRP Executive Assistant; Keith Hillman, MMLH; Luke Miller, MMLH

Roll called by Stephanie Ryland

Upon establishing a quorum, the meeting was called to order by Vice President Terry Spruill

Invocation was given by Commissioner Basil Smith

Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice-President Terry Spruill. • Anecdote shared about the correct phrasing of "one nation under God."

Vice President Spruill offered a Public Comment Period Pursuant to LRS 42:14; there were none.

VI. Action Items:

- a. Agenda: Motion by Commissioner P. Coreil, seconded by Commissioner M. Grant, to approve agenda as proposed; motion carried unanimously.
- b. Minutes: Motion by Commissioner H. Joiner, seconded by Commissioner B. Smith, to approve Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting held on October 23, 2024; motion carried unanimously.
- c. Financial: Motion by Commissioner J. Scott, seconded by Commissioner H. Joiner to approve financial statements for October 2024. Executive Director Ben Russo presented the following:

Financial Statements Review

- October 2024 financials presented.
- Overall total revenue of \$276,399.69.
- Expenses slightly over budget due to increased grass cutting frequency.
- Plans to adjust grass cutting schedule to every three to four weeks.
- Using maintenance team for larger areas to reduce costs.

Operations and Maintenance Updates

- Maintenance group successfully completed various repairs.
- Upgraded to LED lighting and maintenance on other areas.
- Ongoing work on drainage issues.
- Plans to move forward with cost-effective maintenance

Motion carried unanimously.

8:10 am - Commissioner Gil McKee arrived.

- d. Motion by Commissioner G. McKee, seconded by Commissioner M. Grant to approve monthly meeting dates for 2025; motion carried unanimously.
- e. Motion by Commissioner J. Scott, seconded by Commissioner B. Smith to approve **RESOLUTION 2024-14**, certifying the acceptance of project completion for State Project H.011394 (327) with The Miguez Deloach Company; motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call vote was held for the approved motion as follows:

Yays - Paul Coreil, Mike Grant, Haywood Joiner, Gil McKee, John Scott,
Basil Smith, Terry Spruill

Nays - none

Absent - Brannin Leglue, Larry Turner

- f. Motion by Commissioner H. Joiner, seconded by Commissioner P. Coreil to award OLDCC project to add stone to hardstand area for military use as recommended by the Engineer on record.

Bid details shared:

- 11 companies received plans, 8 submitted bids.
- Low bid was \$720,017; only a slight difference from other bids.
- Bid was awarded to Skyplex Trucking.

Motion carried unanimously.

- g. Motion by Commissioner G. McKee, seconded by J. Scott to authorize the Executive Director to sign all necessary documents as it relates to the purchase of 1.158 acres north of Port Road in the amount of \$17,500; motion carried unanimously.
- h. TABLED – Motion by Commissioner G. McKee, seconded by Commissioner J. Scott to TABLE the motion to award erosion control project as recommended by the Engineer on record; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Comments:

- a. Comments by Executive Director – Ben Russo

Project Update for OLDCC

- Current status of the project to add stone to lower dock laydown area.
- Anticipated completion before military rotation in March;
- Delay in military rotation to April/May provides extra time.

Grant Process and Funding for OLDCC

- Description of the grant process.
- 100% grants available, except for some engineering costs.
- Administrative tasks handled by the department without extensive oversight.
- Emphasis on trust and the need for proper audits.

Land Purchase Authorization

- Proposal to purchase 1.158 acres of land.
- Land located north of Portland Road for \$17,500.
- Aimed at improving access to construction projects.
- Involves previous ownership by D and J Construction and Hydro Conduit.
- Historical context of land ownership; appraisal and agreement reached for sale to the port.

Access and Property Use

- U-turn for military vehicles at hardstand requires about an acre.
- Provides more usable area during the rotation process.
- Entrance will be adjacent to properties owned by Petron and Northport.
- Current property is empty with some trailers, fencing, and asphalt.

Bond Commission and Funding

- Upcoming meeting with bond commission for first phase funding for DisTran project.
- Process has been smooth, with bond attorneys confirming readiness.
- Port has a \$10 million bonding capacity.
- Legislation to increase capacity being sponsored by Senator Luneau.

Project Completion and Future Requests

- Three major projects completed in the last month: bridge, Avant production building, and FTZ
- Final payments expected before the end of the year.
- Addressing military needs from last rotation with potential grant requests.
- Plans to increase hard stand by five acres and build a pavilion for soldiers.

Project Management and Cash Flow

- Engineering group has been utilized for project management.
- Need to ensure cash flow for ongoing projects.
- Avoid running into cash-poor situations before reimbursements.

Congressional District and Support

- Port is in the new congressional district.

Intern Program

- Interviewing for an intern position starting in January.
- Focus areas for intern include:
 - Digitizing records and project analytics.
 - Updating procedures and policies as needed.

Alexandria Property Status – 9+ acres on Industrial Site Road

- Currently in the surplus phase.
- Coordination with Martin Marietta for finalization of details.
- Plans for concrete upgrades on access roads.

- b. Comments by Legal Counsel – none
- c. Comments by Economic Development – none
- d. Comments from Elected Officials – none
- e. Comments by public – none
- f. Comments / Questions by Commissioners – none

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner G. McKee motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner J. Scott. This meeting of November 20, 2024, was adjourned by Vice President T. Spruill at 9:05 AM.

Terry Spruill, Vice President